

July 18, 2013 Meeting Summary – Essex/Hudson County Joint Bridge Commission

Attendees:

Luis Rodriguez, Essex County Engineering
Demetro Arencibia, Hudson County Engineering
Khai Leong, Hudson County Engineering
Wally Wolfe, Hudson County Engineering
Gary Foster, CH2M Hill
Mike Holsinger, CH2M Hill
Todd King, Great Lakes Dredging (GLDD)
Matt Stanton, MBI
Bill Potter, *de maximis*
Stan Kaczmarek, *de maximis*

Introduction

Matt Stanton opened the meeting with a brief review of the CPG's membership and the evolution of the River Mile 10.9 Removal Action and an overview of the associated barge movement. He indicated that opening of 10 bridges on the Passaic was required to mobilize dredging equipment to the RM 10.9 Removal Area and that 6 bridges (5 on the Passaic and 1 on the Hackensack) and an additional 3 bridges on the Passaic will occasionally require opening during dredging and capping operations depending on the tides. Bridge opening is required due to the equipment (tug and barge) air draft clearances.

Review of County Bridge Operating Status

Khai Leong, Hudson County Engineering, provided a summary on behalf of the Joint Bridge Commission (Commission) of condition and operating status for the Jackson Street, Clay Street and Bridge Street bridges. All three bridges were damaged during Hurricane Sandy. Sandy damage to the Clay Street and Jackson Street bridges has been repaired. Bridge Street motor repairs remain outstanding. All three bridges have pre-Sandy operating issues, primarily electrical. The items summarized below followed the review of the bridge status.

Bridge Opening

- The Commission agreed to attempt manually opening of the Bridge Street Bridge prior to delivery and installation of the primary motor that is being rebuilt, in order to facilitate upstream mobilization of tugs, dredge barge and equipment, and scows. The Commission offered to attempt a test opening the bridge on July 19.
- GLDD indicated that the Bridge Street bridge opening for the equipment mobilization would require a 5 – 7 hour bridge opening and closure of Bridge Street. The Commission responded that the CPG would need to submit a traffic control plan similar to the Clay Street plan and coordinate street detours with the Newark and Harrison Police Departments.
- The Commission also requested a bridge opening schedule for the RM 10.9 Removal Action to evaluate staffing needs.

- The Jackson and Clay Street Bridges currently can be opened on a regular basis to support both equipment mobilization and regular sediment barge transportation. There are post-Sandy electrical issues that should be addressed to improve operability.

Bridge Street Bridge Motor Repair

- The Commission's contractor repairing the Bridge Street Bridge motors confirmed on July 19 that they expected to ship the motor to Hudson County on July 26 for delivery on July 30. The reason that there were prior delays in shipment of this motor was that the motors were rebuilt to an incorrect motor voltage
- CPG offered to reimburse the motor repair company for expedited shipping if it would shorten delivery schedule.
- After the motor is delivered, the Commission indicated it would take 3-5 days to install it, and 1-2 days to test it.
- CPG offered to reimburse the Commission for overtime (second shift) if it would shorten the motor installation schedule.
- Once the motor is successfully installed, the Commission anticipates that the Bridge Street Bridge should be capable of supporting regular (e.g. every other day) movements of sediment scows up and down river, but they make no promise about the longer-term reliability of any of their Bridges' mechanical and electrical components.

Bridge Operability

- All three Commission-operated bridges have pre-Sandy operating issues, primarily electrical which may impact the ability of these bridges to open and close on a regular basis.
- To attend to any mechanical or electrical issue that arises during the River Mile 10.9 Removal Action, the Commission recommended that CPG consider paying for on-call stand-by support by mechanical/electrical maintenance contractors. CPG indicated their willingness to consider providing this support.
- The Commission agreed to prepare for CPG a list of other needed bridge repairs and spare purchases that can further improve the reliability of the Jackson Street, Clay Street and Bridges Street bridge operations during the RM 10.9 Removal Action. CPG indicated they will evaluate this list and consider additional support to the Commission so that they can improve at least some of the bridge reliability items.